

Phil Akers  
121 Madison Place  
Alexandria Virginia 22314  
(703) 683-2627

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Virginia Air Pollution Control Board  
Public Hearing  
Holiday Inn  
2460 Eisenhower Ave.

Board Members:

I have deep concern on the issue of allowing the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station to continue its operation.

After living under the cloud of the power plant for 25 years, I strongly oppose any action which would allow the plant to continue operation: Studies have already been completed that show that the plant is a health hazard and there is an unacceptable amount of downwash, particulate matter, SO<sub>2</sub>s, and mercury.

This CO<sub>2</sub> emitting, global warming, old coal burning power plant has been given permission to comply with old standards for decades. Mirant makes a tidy profit off the lives of the people in Alexandria. It's very simple to understand: **It cost less to deliver power when you don't have to comply with the latest pollution standards. This grandfather deal is outrageous!**

In addition to all the air pollution issues, the train that delivers coal to the plant causes hellacious noises: engine roar, banging of the coal cars, screeching, and now blasting of the horn. There are also safety concerns: derailment in the close urban environment and the blocking of intersections. There already have been incidents turning both these concerns into problems.

Another problem, not known to many, is the water discharge from the plant into the Potomac River. This water is pumped from the Potomac River and is used to condense steam after it has passed through turbines that turn the electric generators. The water is discharged, at an elevated temperature, back into the river causing thermo pollution. Also, the pumps churn the water, containing suspended plant and river debris, like a blender. The water often looks like bubbly scum for several hundred feet around the discharge pipe. I believe that a study on this matter would show another negative impact on the Potomac River eco system.

**All these problems went away during the plant shutdown late last summer.**

To sum up the situation: The plant location may have been a good idea in

the early 50s and 60s when the water front of Alexandria was industrial. Times have radically changed for the better since then. The plant is now an inefficient, outdated, pollution maker, that doesn't contribute power, worth its existence, into the electrical grid. It is an ugly eyesore in plain view of our residents and visitors that come to our nation's capitol. Sale of plant's land for planned development would more than compensate for any financial issues that would arise from shutting down the plant.

Why is the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality bending over backwards in favor of Mirant's operation and not putting first the health of the people who live in Alexandria?

Sincerely,

Phil Akers